IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims with the following, in which claims 1, 2, and 11 are amended and claims 7, 8, 12, and 14 to 19 are cancelled:

1. (currently amended) A method of non-disruptively modifying the routing of ~~lightpaths~~ a selected lightpath between a transmitting node and a receiving node in an optical mesh network by employing a bridge and roll technique, comprising:

adding a bridge comprising an additional lightpath from the transmitting node to the receiving node; and

performing a roll by switching the selected lightpath to the additional lightpath, ~~in combination with the use of temporary path protection to change~~ whereby the routing of the selected ~~lightpaths~~ lightpath is changed.

2. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein ~~the bridge and roll technique is employed with the~~ the selected lightpath is a lightpath in service.

3. (original) The method as defined in claim 2 wherein the selected lightpath is a working lightpath.

4. (original) The method as defined in claim 2 wherein the selected lightpath is a protection lightpath.

5. (original) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the mesh network operates in a wave division multiplex (WDM) mode.

6. (original) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the bridge and roll technique is operator directed.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (original) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein a network management system is employed to implement route modifications.

10. (original) The method as defined in claim 9 wherein the network management system requests a lightpath routing modification.

11. (currently amended) A system for non-disruptively modifying the routing of ~~lightpaths~~ a selected lightpath between a transmitting node and a receiving node in an optical mesh communication network using a bridge and roll protocol, the system comprising:

means to implement a bridge by adding an additional lightpath from the transmitting node to the receiving node; and

means to perform a roll by switching the selected lightpath to the additional lightpath,

~~and roll protocol wherein temporary paths are employed to change~~ whereby the selected lightpath ~~lightpaths~~ is rerouted without having to take the lightpath out of service.

12. (cancelled)

13. (original) The system as defined in claim 11 wherein a network management system (NMS) implements the bridge and roll protocol.

14-19. (cancelled)